

for amendments in the Kendriya, Vidyalaya Sangathan (Appointment, Promotion, Seniority etc.) Rules 1971. However, as a matter of abundant precaution, the Board decided that a small group of Board members may reexamine the proposals to ensure that the instructions of DoPT are followed within a period of one month and submit them to the Chairman for approval.

**Empowering of women**

1556. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are making efforts towards empowering women;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken/progress made in this regard;
- (c) whether Government have a time bound programme; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government has been formulating various strategies and interventions for the empowerment of women. These include:

- (i) The 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendments which brought about a definite impact on the participation of women in the democratic institutions at the grass root levels through the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies.
- (ii) There are many schemes of various Ministries/Departments for capacity building and economic empowerment of women. These include the schemes such as Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generation-cum-Production Units (NORAD), Socio Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and Swa-shakti which are implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development.
- (iii) The Department of Women and Child Development has taken

up review of laws concerning women with a view to remove provisions in them which may be discriminatory to women.

- (iv) The Government is also observing the year 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment throughout the country.
- (v) A National Policy for the Empowerment of Women is also on the anvil.
- (c) and (d) The empowerment of women is a continuous process and no time limit is fixed for such programmes.

#### **Violence against women and girl child**

1557. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether violence against women and girl child, both domestic and at work, has been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents during last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop violence against women and girl child; and
- (d) the role of National Commission for Women in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As per the data compiled by the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the incidence of